March 6, 2003

Public Notice for Section 401, Water Quality Certification

Trinity County Department of Transportation
Bridge Street Bridge Replacement Project
WDID No.1A03015WNTR

Trinity County

On February 3, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Trinity County Department of Transportation requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for the Bridge Street Bridge Replacement Project. The application was deemed complete on February 18, 2003. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Hayfork Creek and the Trinity River Hydrologic Unit No. 106.00.

The proposed project is located in Section 12, Township 31 North, Range 12 West, MDB&M, in the community of Hayfork, California.

The project proposes to replace Bridge Street Bridge with a two-span, cast-in-place, pre-stressed concrete box girder bridge. California Department of Transportation has deemed the existing single lane truss bridge functionally obsolete. The proposed bridge will be located west of the existing bridge, and will provide two 3.6-m traffic lanes, adjacent 1.2-m shoulders, and a 2.4-m bike path. A new horizontal alignment will be established to the west of the existing alignment, providing optimal connections with Riverview Road and Oak Avenue. In order to provide hydraulic freeboard over Hayfork Creek flows, the roadway profile will be raised approximately 1.3 meters. The proposed bridge will be longer than the existing bridge, and the approach fill will not extend as far into the 100-year flood plain as the existing approach. This will provide a wider flow area under the bridge reducing backwater elevation, water velocities, and scour depths. Relocation of the bridge support outside the ordinary low-flow channel will minimize the environmental impacts of the two-span bridge. A cast-in-steel shell (CISS)/cast-in-drilled hole (CIDH) pile foundation will be installed. This foundation will impact the least amount of area and is quick to install. All material and water removed from the foundation installation will be contained and disposed of outside the ordinary high water mark. False work will be required in the channel for the cast-in-place concrete. It is expected that the contractor will not place any false work supports directly in the water, but supports will be placed close to the edge of the active channel of Hayfork Creek.

The existing bridge will be demolished and removed from the site. Demolition methods will be determined by the contractor. One demolition method involves removal of the existing concrete deck in sections. Each section will be cut and removed with a backhoe, boom truck, etc. After the concrete deck is removed, the truss will be picked up with a crane and placed on a bridge approach for additional dismantling or recycling. Alternatively, the deck may be broken into pieces. Pieces of concrete may fall from the bridge, but will be contained in a catcher system hung from the bottom chords of the truss. Once the deck has been removed, the truss can be removed in one piece or split longitudinally and removed in two pieces. No material shall be allowed to drop into the wetted channel.

Total area of riparian wetlands permanently impacted by this project is 0.013 acre. The project will temporarily impact 0.03 acre.

A Riparian Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Proposal has been developed to offset the impacts to wetlands. Implementation of the compensatory mitigation plan will occur during the late fall or early spring, following construction of the bridge. Potential mitigation sites are located within the project area. When loss of riparian vegetation is unavoidable within the project area, Trinity County will conduct mitigation at a ratio of 3:1 (per woody riparian plant). Areas located along southern and northern banks, upstream and downstream from the project site will also be considered for mitigation at a ratio of 3:1. Noncompensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices for erosion and sediment control.

Trinity County Department of Planning, as the lead agency, has determined that this project is categorically exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15301 (c), Class 1 and Section 15302, Class 2.

The Bridge Street Bridge Replacement Project is scheduled to begin in April 2003 and end in November 2003. Instream work will be conducted between June 15 and October 15, 2003. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Roy O'Connor at (707) 576-2670, or at oconr@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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